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New Aquaculture Building at New Bolton Center Dedicated

The aquaculture program at the School has a new home in the **Fairchild Aquaculture Laboratory at New Bolton Center**. The new building was dedicated on Wednesday, April 3, 2002. Among the speakers at the ceremony were **Samuel Hayes**, secretary of agriculture, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; **Manuel Stamatakis**, chairman, Delaware River Port Authority (DRPA); and **Robert F. Fairchild**, a member of the School of Veterinary Medicine's Board of Overseers and a lead donor to the building fund. Additional funding for the building was provided by the DRPA and the School.

The 2,500 square-foot-building has 12-foot ceilings and is equipped with airhandling and exhaust systems to control airflow. It accommodates four groups of four 330-gallon tanks, each 5-foot in diameter and 2½-foot deep. Each group of tanks has its own filtration and water system. There is also a small laboratory for on-site testing of water samples.

Penn's aquaculture program, a multidisciplinary effort by the School of Veterinary Medicine, the Wharton School, and the School of Engineering and Applied Science, began in 1997 when the DRPA awarded a grant to study the feasibility of state-of-the-art closed-system fish farming. A former cow barn in the Veterinary School's Quadrangle Building was converted into an aquaculture facility with large tanks, pumps, filters, and sophisticated monitoring equipment. The fish raised there were mainly hybrid striped bass, but the group also

looked at raising flounder, tilapia and shrimp.

To work more closely with specialists in food animal husbandry, nutrition, microbiology and toxicology the aquaculture program moved to New Bolton Center a year ago. The group, under the leadership of **Dr. Leon Weiss**, profes-

sor of cell biology, is working closely with **Drs. David Galligan, V'81**, and **James Ferguson, V'81**, of the School's Center for Animal Health and Productivity to apply principles of ration formulation and least-cost diet formulation, common in the dairy industry, to aquaculture. To that end, the group's current research project centers on the development of a more efficient way to feed fish. Farmed fish are raised on fish meal which is relatively expensive, though a fish is more efficient than a chicken converting feed into bodyweight. Planned studies include ways to better prevent and control infectious disease in the fish.

Other members of the group are **Dr. David Nunamaker, V'68**, professor of orthopedic surgery, who is overseeing the raising of hybrid striped bass in New Bolton Center's farm pond, another aspect of the program; **Dr. Lester Koo, V'90**, a

veterinary pathologist and aquaculturist who recently joined the faculty; and **Christopher Weaver**, a research specialist in aquaculture. Students interested in aquaculture are offered elective courses in aquaculture and fish diseases and a number are actively involved in the pond fish farming project at New Bolton Center.

The School of Veterinary Medicine's interest

in aquatic veterinary medicine dates back to 1976 when it established **Aquavet®**, a joint program with Cornell University. Each May students from all over the United States and Canada come to Woods Hole, Mass. for two Aquavet sessions. Many of those working in aquatic science and the aquaculture industry today are alumni of the Aquavet program.



Mr. Alfonso Jackson, Minority Business Development Agency, US Department of Commerce, Dr. Leon Weiss, Mr. Robert Fairchild, Mr. Manuel Stamatakis near one of the tanks in the Fairchild Aquaculture Laboratory.



Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture Samuel Hayes addresses the audience during the dedication.



Mr. Fairchild, Dean Kelly and Christine Connelly, chair, Board of Overseers.

New Overseers

The School's Board of Overseers has three new members: **Dr. Steven W. Atwood, V'80**, **Mrs. Gretchen Jackson**, and **Dr. Robert W. Stewart, V'68** were recently appointed.

Steven Atwood has a mixed animal practice on Martha's Vineyard, Mass. He recently was elected chairman of the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners in Massachusetts. Dr. Atwood served as a board member of the Veterinary Medical Alumni Society from 1996 to 1999. He was instrumental in securing a gift of \$2 million for the new Teaching and Research Building from a grateful client.

Gretchen Jackson, a Penn alumna, together with her husband Roy, is a longtime supporter of New Bolton Center and the University. Mrs. Jackson always liked horses; as a teenager she taught riding at a summer camp and later hunted, often with the Huntingdon Valley Hunt pack in Bucks County. She no longer rides and is involved in race horses as a result of having acquired a broodmare some time ago. Mrs. Jackson serves on the board of the Pickering Hunt Club and the Springside School. She is also on the advisory board of the YMCA Broad Street House and works with truancy children. She has a great belief in the positive benefits of human-animal interaction and relationships.

Robert Stewart is a partner in Wright Veterinary Medical Center, a companion animal practice in Bethlehem, Pa. He has served on the board of the Veterinary Medical Alumni Society for seven years and served as president from 1999 to 2001. He is a recipient of the School's Centennial Award of Merit in 1984 for outstanding contributions to veterinary medicine. His son, Robert, Jr., is a 1999 graduate of the Veterinary School.